

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A call handler interface comprising:
a housing;
a telephone line port carried by said housing
to be connected to a telephone line;
5 a telephone headset port carried by said
housing to be connected to a telephone headset;
an amplifier carried by said housing
connectable between said telephone line port and said
telephone headset port for amplifying and coupling
10 signals therebetween; and
personalized message storage and retrieval
circuitry carried by said housing and connected to said
amplifier for permitting a call handler to store at
least one message in a voice of the call handler and
15 selectively retrieve the stored at least one
personalized message for playing to a caller on the
telephone line.
2. A call handler interface according to
Claim 1 further comprising a level control circuit
carried by said housing and connected to said amplifier
for controlling at least a playback level for a
5 personalized message.
3. A call handler interface according to
Claim 1 further comprising:
at least one call handler interface switch
carried by said housing; and
5 control logic circuitry carried by said
housing for controlling said personalized message
storage and retrieval circuitry based upon said at
least one call handler interface switch.

4. A call handler interface according to
10 Claim 3 wherein said at least one call handler
interface switch comprises:

a first set of function switches; and
a second set of personalized message
selection switches.

5. A call handler interface according to
Claim 4 further comprising respective function
indicators carried by said housing and associated with
said first set of function switches.

6. A call handler interface according to
Claim 3 further comprising an external control port
carried by said housing and connected to said control
logic circuitry for permitting external control of said
5 personalized message storage and retrieval circuitry.

7. A call handler interface according to
Claim 1 further comprising a handset port carried by
said housing and connectable to said amplifier for
permitting connection of a telephone handset thereto.

8. A call handler interface according to
Claim 7 further comprising at least one selector switch
carried by said housing for selectively connecting said
headset port or said handset port to said amplifier.

9. A call handler interface according to
Claim 1 wherein said personalized message storage and
retrieval circuitry comprises a connector and a memory
device removably mated with said connector; said memory
5 device for storing the at least one message in a voice
of the call handler.

10. A call handler interface according to Claim 1 further comprising a mute switch carried by said housing and connected to said amplifier for muting the call handler.

11. A call handler interface according to Claim 1 wherein said telephone line input port comprises a wireless telephone line port.

12. A call handler interface according to Claim 1 wherein said telephone line headset port comprises a wireless telephone line headset port.

13. A call handler interface according to Claim 1 wherein said telephone line input port comprises a telephone line connector.

14. A call handler interface according to Claim 1 wherein said telephone line headset port comprises a wireless telephone line headset connector.

15. A call handler interface according to Claim 1 further comprising a headset carried by said housing.

16. An automated call distribution (ACD) system comprising:

an ACD device and a plurality of call handler work stations connected thereto, each work station comprising a call handler display for displaying information to a call handler, a call handler input device for accepting call handler inputs, and a call handler interface comprising
a housing,

10 a telephone line port carried by said
housing to be connected to said ACD device,
 a telephone headset port carried by said
housing to be connected to a telephone
headset,
15 an amplifier carried by said housing and
connectable between said telephone line port
and said telephone headset port for
amplifying and coupling signals therebetween,
and
20 personalized message storage and
retrieval circuitry carried by said housing
and connected to said amplifier for
permitting a call handler to store at least
one message in a voice of the call handler
25 and selectively retrieve the stored at least
one personalized message for playing to a
caller on the telephone line.

17. An ACD system according to Claim 16
further comprising a level control circuit carried by
said housing and connected to said amplifier for
controlling at least a playback level for a
5 personalized message.

18. An ACD system according to Claim 16
further comprising:
 at least one call handler interface switch
carried by said housing; and
5 control logic circuitry carried by said
housing for controlling said personalized message
storage and retrieval circuitry based upon said at
least one call handler interface switch.

19. An ACD system according to Claim 18 wherein said at least one call handler interface switch comprises:

- a first set of function switches; and
- 5 a second set of personalized message selection switches.

20. An ACD system according to Claim 19 further comprising respective function indicators carried by said housing and associated with said first set of function switches.

- 21. An ACD system according to Claim 18 further comprising an external control port carried by said housing and connected to said control logic circuitry for permitting external control of said
- 5 personalized message storage and retrieval circuitry.

22. An ACD system according to Claim 16 further comprising a handset port carried by said housing and connectable to said amplifier for permitting connection of a telephone handset thereto.

23. An ACD system according to Claim 22 further comprising at least one selector switch carried by said housing for selectively connecting said headset port or said handset port to said amplifier.

- 24. An ACD system according to Claim 16 wherein said personalized message storage and retrieval circuitry comprises a connector and a memory device removably mated with said connector; said memory device
- 5 for storing the at least one message in a voice of the call handler.

25. An ACD system according to Claim 16 further comprising a mute switch carried by said housing and connected to said amplifier for muting the call handler.

26. A telephone system comprising:

at least one key telephone set and at least one call handler interface connected thereto, said call handler interface comprising

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a housing,

a telephone line port carried by said housing to be connected to said at least one key telephone set,

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a telephone headset port carried by said housing to be connected to a telephone headset,

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an amplifier carried by said housing and connectable between said telephone line port and said telephone headset port for amplifying and coupling signals therebetween, and

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personalized message storage and retrieval circuitry carried by said housing and connected to said telephone headset amplifier for permitting a call handler to store at least one message in a voice of the call handler and selectively retrieve the stored at least one personalized message for playing to a caller on the telephone line.

27. A telephone system according to Claim 26 further comprising a private branch exchange connected upstream of said at least one key telephone set.

28. A telephone system according to Claim 26 further comprising a level control circuit carried by said housing and connected to said amplifier for controlling at least a playback level for a
5 personalized message.

29. A telephone system according to Claim 26 further comprising:

at least one call handler interface switch carried by said housing; and
5 control logic circuitry carried by said housing for controlling said personalized message storage and retrieval circuitry based upon said at least one call handler interface switch.

30. A telephone system according to Claim 29 wherein said at least one call handler interface switch comprises:

a first set of function switches; and
5 a second set of personalized message selection switches.

31. A telephone system according to Claim 30 further comprising respective function indicators carried by said housing and associated with said first set of function switches.

32. A telephone system according to Claim 29 further comprising an external control port carried by said housing and connected to said control logic circuitry for permitting external control of said
5 personalized message storage and retrieval circuitry.

33. A telephone system according to Claim 26 further comprising a handset port carried by said

housing and connectable to said amplifier for
permitting connection of a telephone handset thereto.

34. A telephone system according to Claim 33
further comprising at least one selector switch carried
by said housing for selectively connecting said headset
port or said handset port to said amplifier.

35. A telephone system according to Claim 26
wherein said personalized message storage and retrieval
circuitry comprises a connector and a memory device
removably mated with said connector; said memory device
5 for storing the at least one message in a voice of the
call handler.

36. A telephone system according to Claim 26
further comprising a mute switch carried by said
housing and connected to said amplifier for muting the
call handler.

37. A method for making a call handler
interface comprising:

providing a housing with a telephone line
port and telephone headset port carried by the housing;

5 providing an amplifier in the housing and
connectable between the telephone line port and the
telephone headset port for amplifying and coupling
signals therebetween; and

providing personalized message storage and
10 retrieval circuitry carried by the housing and
connected to the amplifier for permitting a call
handler to store at least one message in a voice of the
call handler and selectively retrieve the stored at
least one personalized message for playing to a caller
15 on the telephone line.

38. A method according to Claim 37 further comprising providing a level control circuit carried by the housing and connected to the amplifier for controlling at least a playback level for a
5 personalized message.

39. A method according to Claim 37 further comprising providing:
at least one call handler interface switch carried by the housing; and
5 control logic circuitry carried by the housing for controlling the personalized message storage and retrieval circuitry based upon the at least one call handler interface switch.

40. A method according to Claim 39 wherein the at least one call handler interface switch comprises:
a first set of function switches; and
5 a second set of personalized message selection switches.

41. A method according to Claim 39 further comprising an external control port carried by the housing and connected to the control logic circuitry for permitting external control of the personalized
5 message storage and retrieval circuitry.

42. A method according to Claim 37 further comprising providing a handset port carried by the housing that is connectable to the amplifier for permitting connection of a telephone handset thereto.